



Dear Roxbury Community College Family:

It has been a difficult month in the Massachusetts media for our college. Stories in the local media have raised concerns we take very, very seriously. I am writing to you today to tell you that despite what you may have heard or read, there are no partnerships or job-creating business alliances that we would ever turn away. Our concern is your future, and that means working tirelessly to engender synergies with Massachusetts corporations.

On a far more serious topic, it was recently written that RCC has failed to file accurate crime reports to the U.S. Department of Education. We understand our obligations regarding these reports and are meeting with the federal officials to discuss their concerns. I am confident that we will resolve any misunderstandings or discrepancies identified in our filings and bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion. Whether it be the proper filing of crime reports or the timely disbursement of financial aid, it is imperative that all of the administrative systems at RCC are working at a level that helps our students and their families.

In closing, I want to say that I understand that while seeing news coverage like this about our institution can be difficult and upsetting, what keeps me inspired are the many good things happening at RCC. My pride is most exemplified by our graduating class this week – the largest in RCC's history. Thank you for your dedication to the college and for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Terrence A. Gomes
President

ATTACKS ON RCC LEAD TO AN OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT FROM THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY

By **Judy Kahalas**
Editor of *The Gateway Gazette*

A series of articles attacking the College that were recently published in *The Boston Globe* has incited the campus and community to respond. Professor Richard Eells (Math), President of the union's campus chapter, called an emergency meeting in which members of the faculty and professional staff outlined a three-point plan that included letter-writing, rallies, and faculty and staff presence at another emergency meeting, this time of the Board of Trustees.

Under attack by *The Globe's* Adrian Walker is the leadership of the college. On May 7, Walker alleged that President Terrence Gomes failed to respond to "the state's most prominent movers and shakers" who came to the college in "a string of limousines" to offer a job training program that would guarantee jobs to students participating in their pilot internship initiative.

The President of Bunker Hill Community College, Mary Fifield, was portrayed as embracing the program and seemed incredulous that Gomes would not do the same. However, Gomes has emphatically denied turning away the members of MCP (Massachusetts Competitive Partnership). He claims that the meeting, unexpected due to scheduling snafus, was cordial and that the college did not indicate that they were not interested in participating in the program.

In a second article, written on May 12, Walker highlighted problems with the disbursement of Financial Aid checks to the students. Although this did happen due to a computer glitch and problems with advising tools, Lisa Carter, Director of Advising on campus, spoke to the need to carefully reconstruct student records to ensure that this would not happen in the future. Each student record, dating back several years, had to be reviewed individually and staff remained on campus late into the night to ensure that this was done as quickly and thor-

oughly as possible. Checks to students were mailed last week.

Walker also mentioned the low graduation rates at RCC but failed to note that this was similar at many of the state's community colleges. Walker also failed to explore the many underlying reasons why graduation rates are low, such as transfers, non-degree seeking students, etc.

On May 15 Walker noted the presence of federal agents on campus to investigate "serious lapses in (the college's) reporting of crimes committed on campus." The crimes, according to *The Globe*, included three reported sexual assaults on students.

The editorial that was published on May 16 calls for Gomes' resignation. Many on campus think that the attacks on Gomes and the College are part of an overarching plan to turn community colleges into workforce training programs and to integrate Roxbury Community College and Bunker Hill Community College.

Dear Colleagues:

After reading Adrian Walker's column, "Taking a Pass on the Future" (*Boston Globe* - May 7, 2012), I am compelled to write and correct gross inaccuracies. I was Interim Dean of STEM at the time, and President Gomes had asked me to be part of the group that would meet with Mr. Swanson, Ms. Sen, Mr. Fish and Mr. O'Connell.

The first inaccuracy is that the meeting did not take place in the Fall. This group came unannounced on February 28, 2011. My recollection is that Dr. Gomes asked us to keep three possible dates open in February for this meeting, the last one being February 28th. However, by the morning of the 28th, no one had called to set up the meeting; yet, on the morning of the 28th, there they were. When they arrived unexpectedly, I received a call from Dr. Gomes' office asking me to come immediately to the Administration Building to meet with our visitors.

Secondly, at no time during the unexpected meeting, did President Gomes refuse to accept their offer of the "learn and earn" program. In fact, when they left they said they looked forward to working with us and that they would get back to us with the next steps. Although we were not happy with the surprise visit, (we had a Power Point that we did not get to show), we were ready to work with them. I, personally, contacted Mr. Swanson later that week (March 3, 2011) to talk about our Engineering Program and how could it fit

into their vision. (He responded the same day.)

Third, I think we have all witnessed the efforts of President Gomes in trying to make this college fulfill its promise to the community. He would have no reason not to accept a program that would help our students succeed.

Finally, Mr. Walker characterized our enrollment as "languishing". It would interest him to know that, in the last few years, our enrollment has increased by 26%.

Apparently Mr. Adrian Walker is not into following the journalistic time-honored tradition of checking facts before writing a column or a news story.

I hope this clarifies this situation.

Kyrsis

Kyrsis R. Rodríguez, Ph.D.
Professor of Science
Roxbury Community College



You can join our Twitter campaign by adding [#istandwithrcc](#) to your tweet.

Log in to Express your Opinions
By Jenene Cook, Dean of Instructional Technology

Dialogue for the "Stand up for RCC" campaign has now gone viral. If you would like to express your opinion, please follow this link:

standupforrcc.wordpress.com

An open letter to Adrian Walker:

Hi, Mr. Walker. It's us again, those poor folk down at Roxbury Community College. Under the leadership of President Terrence Gomes:

- RCC has increased enrollment by 26% (over the last five years).
- RCC is graduating historic numbers of students, over 350, the last two years running.
- RCC is graduating approximately 375 students this year. Some of these are going to Tufts, Bentley, Leslie, Simmons, Northeastern, Mass. College of Pharmacy and Allied Health, Boston University, Salem State, and other equally well-regarded institutions of higher education. Here are some specific achievements of a few of our students:
 - Tabitha Marie Johnson, who graduated with honors from Roxbury Community College last December, has been awarded a full Chancellor's Scholarship for Excellence at UMass Boston.
 - Schaneque Barrows, a Biotechnology student at RCC, has won first place for the 2012 Ruth and William Silan MD award. Schaneque presented a poster at the New England Science Symposium sponsored by Harvard Medical School.
 - The National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association named three RCC student-athletics to the NJCAA All-American Teams. Tyler Kimball and Siara Lowry were named to the women's basketball team, and Paul Becklen was named to the men's team.
 - Tyler Kimball has been selected as a Collegiate All-American, and for the next year her jersey will be hanging in the Knoxville Hall of Fame Ring-of-Honor. This is the second year in a row for RCC. Jesika Holmes was last year's Collegiate All-American. On May 1st, her jersey was replaced by Tyler's.
 - RCC student, Maxwell Opara, was selected as one of the 2011 "29 Who Shine" The 29 were graduating seniors representing the very best from each of the 29 state universities and community colleges. Opara was selected for his outstanding academic performance, his GPA is 3.51, and for his volunteer and community service work.
- RCC has launched its first ever and very successful Capital Campaign.
- RCC received \$20.7 million bond funding for a new Life Sciences Center and we are currently working with an architect on developing our site plan.
- RCC has received over 5 million in grants. Here are some specific details on the grants:
 - In September 2011, President Terrence A. Gomes and Vice President Brenda Mercomes presided over a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to launch several new Title III funded, learner-centered classrooms. The classrooms are part of the Developing Academic Readiness through Technology (DART) project. The DART project is a five-year, \$2 million effort aimed at improving student persistence and graduation rates by utilizing technology.
 - RCC was awarded a \$750,000 Department of Labor grant for Workforce Development.
 - Roxbury Community College has been awarded a \$30,000 planning grant for the Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment (ICE) Partnership Program for Students with Disabilities.
 - RCC's Gardens and Orchard program was awarded \$50,000 from the Department of Neighborhood Development for the further expansion of the College's gardens.
 - RCC's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Division was awarded an Energy in Science Teaching (BEST) grant. BEST is a \$2.1 million dollar National Science Foundation Phase II Math-Science Partnership grant. Through this grant, RCC will continue to work with the University of Massachusetts, Northeastern University, and Boston Public Schools as an extension of the College's work with the Boston Science Partnership.
- RCC is a recognized national leader college under the nationally-renown "Achieving the Dream" initiative.
- Roxbury Community College's Corporate and Community Education Department, within the Division of Continuing Education, is offering four new programs starting in the spring 2012 semester: Veterinary Assistant Program, Electronic Health Record Specialist Program, Ophthalmic Medical Assistant Program and Professional Pharmacy Technician Program. These exciting programs are specifically designed to meet workforce needs.
- Dr. Khudairi, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) is Roxbury Community College's first professor to receive the prestigious Fulbright Scholar Award. Dr. Khudairi taught pathophysiology courses and conducted research on quality assurance and assessment of STEM programs at the University of Jordan, Faculty of Pharmacy, in Amman, Jordan.
- RCC English Professor, Ken Tangvik has published a new book, Don't Mess with Tanya: Stories Emerging from Boston's Barrios.
- Nikolaus Sucher, Adjunct Professor in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Division is co-editor and contributor of three chapters to a new book published by Humana Press. The book is titled Plant DNA Fingerprinting and Barcoding Methods and Protocols. Professor Sucher is joined by co-editors Professor James R. Hennell, of the University of Western Sydney, Penrith, NSW, Australia and Professor Maria C. Carles of Northern Essex Community College in Massachusetts.
- Alane K. Shanks, Ed.D., former Vice President of Administration and Finance, became the 10th president of Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill, MA, on July 15, 2011. During her five and a half year tenure as RCC's CFO, from 2006 to 2011, the College achieved financial stability, implemented budget management linked to the strategic plan, improved science labs, made the campus greener, and improved customer service delivery in the Business Office, Facilities, and Human Resources.
- The National Center of Afro-American Artists and Roxbury Community College in association with Quincy Geneva Housing Corporation presented Black Nativity in the Media Arts Center Mainstage at RCC.

Dear Mr. Walker:

Thank you for taking your time to respond to me.

Please understand that this is not a personal attack in any way but a response to your articles with are loaded with half-truths and misinformation about our college. You have a position where you can reach thousands of people with your opinion column. You must understand that your words may be misused against low income students and immigrants and that when you attack an institution, you are attacking everyone at the workplace and at an academic institution, all students who have gone to the college may be suffering the effects of your words as they ripple across the businesses and institutions of Massachusetts. I am sure you can imagine how that may affect our students of color as they try to apply for jobs in Boston, or did you bother to consider that before printing your column? None of the positive things that I have done or my hard-working colleagues have ever done has ever been reported by *the Globe* to my knowledge. Why is that?

Regarding my letters to you, I am provoked by your attack in your column, and simply responding to you to fight

back for sake of my students, particularly those who have worked very hard to get to the point where they are ready to go to a four year college. You are attacking our entire community and discrediting our institution. who deserve better by maligning the reputation of our college. Did you expect me to sit back and be okay with that? What about the students here?

When you stop attacking the college with false accusations and calling for our president to step down I will stop saying that you refuse to print our letters. Do you have a PhD in education? What gives you the credentials to ask for our President of a college to step down when you can't even disclose the sources for the facts reported your opinion column?

How was your "6%" calculated? I don't think the public has access to the equation and these numbers. All I know is this year we have 325 students graduating and ~2,300 enrolled.

325/2300 = . In addition here and at other colleges where I teach, many students just take the prerequisite classes and then leave to enter the programs they are interested in. Many of us consider this success even though they do

not graduate with an associate's degree in their hands.

I do not wish to argue with you back and forth. This is not I only ask for you to acknowledge the fact that your sources were biased and do not reflect all of the facts correctly.

Our former interim Dean Kyrsis Rodriguez is cc'd on this email. My understanding is that her letter was received by "*The Globe*" a few days ago but will not be printed.

Please reconsider your position for the sake of this community. I consider our communications closed until you offer an apology to Roxbury Community College for the damage you have done to our reputation with your words.

Best,

Kimberly Stieglitz
Professor of Science, Roxbury Community College

Dear Adrian Walker,

I am uncertain whether I write you as a fellow-journalist (26 years with "The Fenway News," Boston's only remaining community newspaper), or as a 32-year Mathematics teacher, the last three of which I have largely spent at Roxbury Community College. Both of these perspectives inform what I say to you.

And I write to you directly, not to the editor, since it is evident that *the Globe* has chosen not to print any letters in defense of RCC. So I appeal to both your sense of caring for our community and your integrity as a journalist, and hope you will draw appropriate conclusions.

You mention the alleged 6% graduation figure. You surely realize that we teach those whom nobody else will serve. Most of our mathematics students place into 'developmental' track: This means they have no grasp of high school material. We work with them. Many take the remediation and go on to other things they could not do before. Is that a waste? A scandal?

I must tell you about a couple of the 94% who do not graduate, and who thus so scandalize you and titillate your suburban readers. One woman I had in class was taking math because her 13-year old grandson was having trouble, and she wanted to help him. Where but RCC would she go? And a young man I had last fall, I just ran into. "Stephon, where have you been?" I asked. "Oh, I'm at UMass now", he answered. Should RCC refuse to enroll such students, in order to raise its almighty graduation rate? I consider these two cases outstanding successes, and surely you must too. But they are among the 94% that so concerns you.

You write, with no evidence and contrary to all fact, that the vibrant and loving RCC community is "languishing." I can tell you this: There has already been a remarkable transformation in the mathematics I teach even in the three years I have been at RCC. We have so much new technology your head would spin. I have undergone more professional development in my short time at RCC than in all the rest of my career combined! ? This, by the way, all while the supposedly ineffectual Dr. Gomes has led RCC.

Perhaps prior to Dr. Gomes' tenure, Mathematics may have languished at RCC, but now we have strong common course standards, regular communications among teachers, and supplementary computer laboratory integrated into the courses. I have watched students thrive. One young lady I had only 3 years ago, in BASIC MATH, is next

Dear Mr. Walker:

I trust you. I know that your intentions are pure, that you hope to provide better opportunities for our students and for the good people of Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and beyond. Then please tell me, as a long-time professor of composition and journalism, what were you thinking? "Languishing?" I don't think so!

We at Roxbury Community College are doing some really terrific things, Mr. Walker. We just received a \$20.7 million dollar bond to improve our campus and further develop our Life Sciences Programs. We have partnerships with local area hospitals; 100% of our nursing students passed the NCLEX exam. This is huge!

We are a leadership college for the national initiative called Achieving the Dream. We have been funded for three years to explore ways to support the many students who come in needing foundational support. We won a prestigious Title III Grant to shore up our developmental education programs by integrating cutting edge technology.

Our graduating class of approximately 375 students have gotten into Tufts, Emerson, Northeastern, Bentley, Simmons, Leslie, not to mention our equally challenging state colleges and universities. Those who are entering the work-

Friday graduating with honors, in a biotechnology program. She just wrote me a note to thank her math program for making the rest possible. Why do you not write about her?

Mr. Walker: If you would look at full-time matriculated students, you will find that RCC is up there with the leaders among schools that serve the population we serve. Did you fact-check this?

Mr. Walker: I understand why a Tito Jackson, who wishes to advance his political career and understands that his career depends on playing waterboy for downtown/suburban and bio-tech interests if he is to have a future, would bash RCC. But you are a journalist, with front-page exposure. Yet again and again, you gullibly print what you are fed, without checking, to the great amusement of *the Globe's* white 'liberal' readership.

There is a risk in this. Early in my writing career, I several times gullibly repeated what I was told, (and my editor took me at my word), and 20 years later, I still cringe. We all know the 'limousine incident' you repeated, by now. But you left out the part about how "the suits" " secretary contacted Dr. Gomes' secretary the day after the snafu, apologizing for forgetting to call and schedule the meeting RCC leadership supposedly ducked. You should check things like this before risking your credibility. Those who feed you these lines risk nothing; they will remain rich and powerful, but you risk your reputation.

On a day's notice, we faculty filled the boardroom after RCC's trustees, panicked into action by your columns, called a meeting to discuss the college's leadership. You should check up on the attendance, rather than refer to us as 'a handful'. There was no more room there last night. We took up every seat. The revered Mel King also attended, which shows our community recognizes an orchestrated attack when we see one unfold.

Mr. Walker: May I invite you to spend a day with me at RCC? We might both learn a lot. You could meet a lot of wonderful teachers and students, and they could meet a prominent columnist. Heck, I've never gotten to write an opinion column. I'd love to know what that is like.

You have my contact information in this email.

Best,

Jon Ball
Mathematics Instructor, STEM Division, RCC 5/14/12

force are pursuing careers in nursing, radiology technology, biotechnology, and veterinary science. Others have chosen careers in computer science and office technology. Still others, lifelong learners, have enriched themselves and their perspective of this changing society by the courses they have taken here.

We have received numerous grants to improve teaching and learning. We have continuously reviewed our curricula, modified it to meet the challenges of 4-year institutions and a rapidly changing workforce.

Here, in my Writing Center, we emphasize the value of the argument. Sound reasoning must support opinions, like research. Sources should be credible and current. Do you think, perhaps, that you missed that class?

So I ask you, with great respect, why you feel compelled to share an opinion that can lead to misconceptions, disappointments, and – yes – even missed opportunities? Our doors are always open for honest and open dialogue, Mr. Walker. Please don't hesitate to knock. We may be a community of color, but we recognize yellow.

Prof. Judith L. Kahalas
Coordinator of the Writing Center
Roxbury Community College
Secretary of the RCC Foundation

Dear Mr. Walker:

Thank you for taking your time to respond to me.

Please understand that this is not a personal attack in any way but a response to your articles with are loaded with half-truths and misinformation about our college. You have a position where you can reach thousands of people with your opinion column. You must understand that your words may be misused against low income students and immigrants and that when you attack an institution, you are attacking everyone at the workplace and at an academic institution, all students who have gone to the college may be suffering the effects of your words as they ripple across the businesses and institutions of Massachusetts. I am sure you can imagine how that may affect our students of color as they try to apply for jobs in Boston, or did you bother to consider that before printing your column? None of the positive things that I have done or my hard-working colleagues have ever done has ever been reported by *the Globe* to my knowledge. Why is that?

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Kimberly Stieglitz

Professor of Science, Roxbury Community College

Mr. Walker,

You said in your article that 2000 students attend RCC. If everyone stays for two year, this makes 1000 per year. This commencement is going to award 388 degrees!!! Get calculator and see for your self that this is not six percent.

My engineering students have been transferring to UMASS, BU, Tufts, sometimes before graduation because that is their advantage. They are our best. But in your book that does not count!!

Our students (as well as Bunker Hill's) have a life that makes them change their plans in the first month of the semester. Both institutions release the financial aid well into the semester to avoid erroneous disbursement. Once RCC had a problem and delayed it for one month and you say three months!! In case you forgot, a semester is almost four months.

RCC has had a number of great successes at the state and national levels. I wonder!!

Javad Moulai, PhD
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Engineering Department Chair,
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YOUR
Opinion
DOES
Matter



Sensational Headlines Prey on Deep-Seated Prejudices

By Prof. Nikki Rabin
Writing Center Associate

No one likes to admit that he/she is prejudiced, or believes in stereotypes. I am among those who believe themselves to be liberal and unbiased—I hold multiple degrees from liberal arts schools, teach university courses on race and racism, vote democratic, believe in social justice, have experienced racism myself, etc. But, if I am really honest with myself then I will have to admit that I have at some points believed in stereotypes, and one of those has been about Roxbury Community College.

Before starting my recent job at the Writing Center at Roxbury Community College, I believed, like many other Bostonians, that Roxbury was unsafe. I didn't know much about the campus or the neighboring area. I live in the 30-something, professional, tech-world of Kendall Square and had never even been on the orange line. What little I knew about Roxbury, I had gathered from local media or the hearsay of acquaintances. I had seen sensational stories on the news about crimes committed in Roxbury, the poverty rate of the area, and the effect of the recent housing foreclosures. And, a friend of mine told me about how her car had been stolen off Marlborough Street in the Back Bay, stripped down, and left on the streets of Roxbury. These stories made up my limited, and filtered, familiarity to the community of Roxbury.

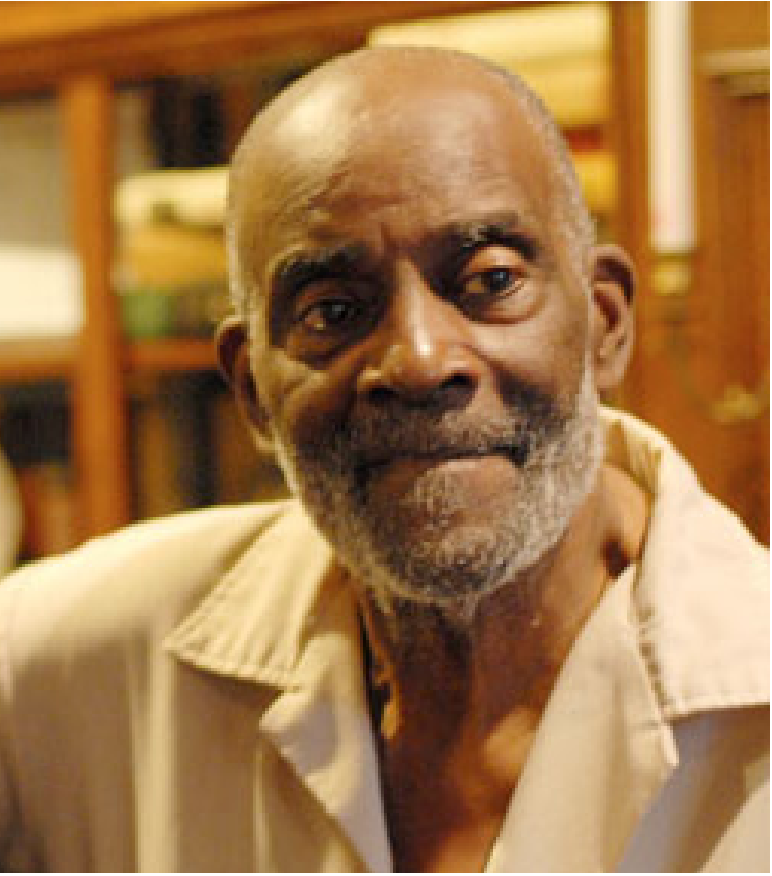
Based on my exposure to the media representations of Roxbury and other areas affected by poverty, prior to my initial interview at RCC, I imagined the college campus to be run-down, perhaps with unpainted buildings and litter scattered everywhere. When I arrived on campus for that first time, I remember thinking how wrong I was. The campus has lush grass separating each of the quaint brick buildings. There are manicured paths, lined with flowering trees and stone benches. It was like walking through

a park in one of the richest neighborhoods in Boston. The campus itself is situated on a major boulevard, just across the street from the T station. As I walked to my interview, I saw nothing of the Roxbury I had imagined.

Once I started my job on campus another one of my prejudices was deconstructed. Since Roxbury Community College was in a depressed neighborhood, I initially worried that it would be unsafe. What I saw was that the college had taken security precautions, such as placing security guards on campus, constructing a fence surrounding the actual grounds, and ensuring well-lit paths and buildings. Roxbury has done what all other college campuses can and have done to ensure the safety of their students, staff, and faculty. What impressed me the most about RCC was that out of all the schools where I have worked and/or attended—including two private liberal arts colleges in Boston and a large state university in Hawaii—there is a stronger sense of community among the students, professors, and staff at Roxbury Community College. And, it seems that with this sense of community comes a sense of integrity and concern for the safety, well-being, and reputation of their school.

Whatever the discrepancy may be in the reporting of crime statistics at Roxbury Community College, it is apparent that the media is playing on the public's prejudices against the impoverished community of Roxbury and RCC. While we might be able to deny that this attention is a form of racism, we can address the ways in which this negative attention is very much a form of classism. Poverty and increased crime rates have become so entangled with each other in the public consciousness that it becomes very difficult to imagine that a school or students at a school, in an impoverished area would not have, or participate in, increased crime. The media is smart and making a sensational headline based on the deep-seated prejudices of this city.

"Accentuating the Positive to Overcome the Negative"



By Quentin James, Moses Mokuolu, and Woody Vainqueur

What is puzzling to many at Roxbury Community College is why *The Boston Globe* and other media outlets have recently decided to focus solely on the negative aspects of RCC. Among the confounded is renowned educator, social activist, author, and community organizer Mel King, who was one of the forces behind the creation of Roxbury Community College back in 1973. Professor King believes the negative publicity at RCC can be easily overshadowed

by all of the good the institution has done. Regarding this recent rash negative press, Professor King said, "It impacts the whole community."

In 1972, King and his group went before numerous board of education meetings in various cities such as Boston and Springfield to make their case and eventually sought approval from legislation to start a community college because as he put it, "There was a need for people in the community to have access to lower cost education." After securing this approval, he facilitated a connection between Mass Bay Community

College and the Urban League to begin classes. He then, along with individuals such as Representative Doris Bunte, worked diligently to secure the funds to build the school at its current location which was essential because it provided a situation comparable to other community colleges. Not only is it conveniently located off the MBTA Orange Line, but it also is in the heart of the Roxbury community where King said members of the community can see the college and "see students looking like them in college."

So after the hard work that so many have put into establishing Roxbury Community College and its legacy, the recent negative publicity in the press has the potential to create as Professor King put it, a "difficulty of legitimacy." Needless to say, these articles do not leave a good impression for those previously unfamiliar with RCC and also those considering enrolling in the future. Professor King says that this creates an "undercurrent of belief amongst folks in the community that [RCC] is not as good as somewhere else."

The questions arise and need to be asked as well as answered. Why are these points surfacing now? What are those in the media attempting to accomplish with this negative press? And perhaps most importantly: Where is the good publicity? Professor King acknowledges that there is room for improvement and that of course, we all can always do better, but "what is going on that keeps the positive stuff out of the press?"

It is interesting to point out that this negative press is emerging a short time after the Boston Foundation issued a report that advised the state to transition community colleges into workforce development centers, so that mid-level and entry level jobs could be filled. Though some students do enter the

workforce utilizing the degrees or certificates they've earned at RCC, a great majority of students go on to transfer to 4-year institutions like Tufts, Northeastern, Boston University, Bentley University or UMass-Boston. The article made no mention of the number of students that have obtained internships at MIT, Harvard, or Northeastern; the nursing program at RCC which boasts a high exam pass rate and is on par with any other in the state; or the MIT fellowship program which deals with Urban and Community Planning. In addition, this semester RCC will host its largest graduating class in the history of the school. And recently, millions upon millions of dollars has been secured to support the life science program at RCC.

Many positive things are occurring on this campus, and Professor King urges us to consider the role we have all played in accentuating the positive to overcome the negative. He urges us to examine "The Case for The Community Colleges" prepared by the Boston Foundation. He reminds us that marching and demonstration are healthy things. He encourages us to ask questions and demand answers from the press, from the Board, from administration, from those individuals involved in the business meeting, and from ourselves.

If change is desired and control of the direction of the school is the objective, according to Prof King, it "shouldn't happen with character assassination."

The legacy of this school and this community is one that should invoke pride every time one enters these halls. Professor King recognized the importance of RCC in its role modeling, in its belief that it instills, and the in the courses offered related to understanding the struggles as well as the job preparedness.

And regardless of any outside perception, or maybe because of it, this legacy needs to be continually elevated and strengthened. Professor Mel King reminds us that the "student body needs to ask itself what do we need to do to make the climate, atmosphere, day-to-day relationships that show the kind of belief in the value of the institution and of each other. How do we build a community? How do we make sure the environment is the most educationally supported?" How do we continue the legacy?



Acting Independently in Journalism

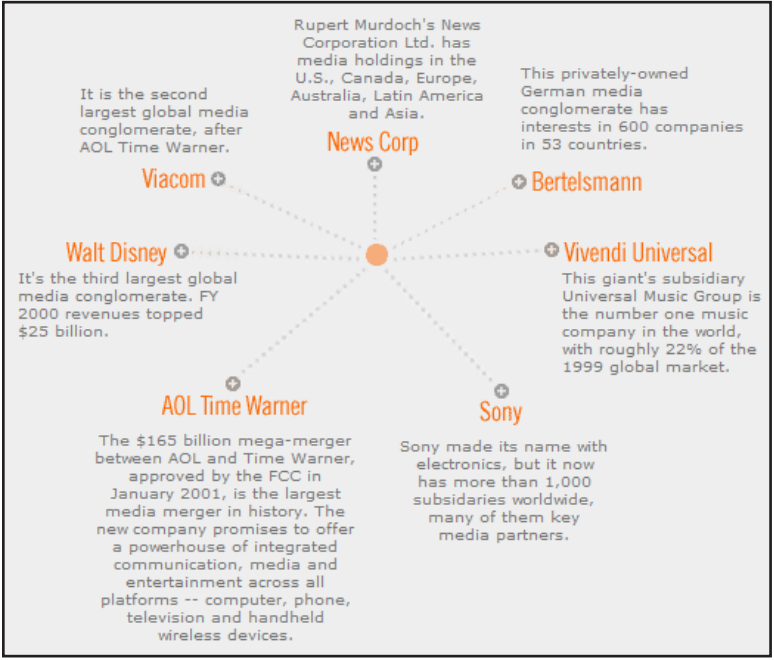
By Christian Williams

Is conglomeration the greatest threat to free press in America? The code of ethics for journalist as laid out by the Society of Professional Journalists has as one of the four major tenants: “ACT INDEPENDENTLY; Journalists should be free of obligation to any interest other than the public’s right to know.”

This is a serious requirement needed in order to execute one of the most important roles of Journalists to serve as an independent monitor of power. Journalism owes its very existence to that of being a check and illuminating presence in the face of corrupt government and abuses of power. Journalists since the beginning of their existence felt that the watchdog role is one of their most important responsibilities. “The earliest

journalists firmly established as a core principle their responsibility to examine the unseen corners of society,” state Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel in The Elements of Journalism.

Business conglomerates are by far the most powerful organizations in America and most other countries. We have often seen how private interest buy elections and governmental favor in third world countries and now as we seem to watch helplessly as the same happens in our country. Even the politician themselves who benefit from this find it hard to cause reform because it is how the system works that got them into office. I believe the people; the majority of citizens of this country can cause a change in this area but are not because of the control the media conglomerates operate over our attention. We look to journalist to give us the information necessary to make sound decisions in our leaders and the policy’s that govern our lives. When the large media conglomerates see policies that may be of threat to them do you think they report them? AOL Time Warner the largest media conglomerate owns more than 80 media companies including TV Networks, Film, Internet, Music, Publishing, Magazine companies and sports teams (www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/cool/giants).



A publication of staff and students at
Roxbury Community College
1234 Columbus Avenue, Roxbury Crossing, Massachusetts 02120

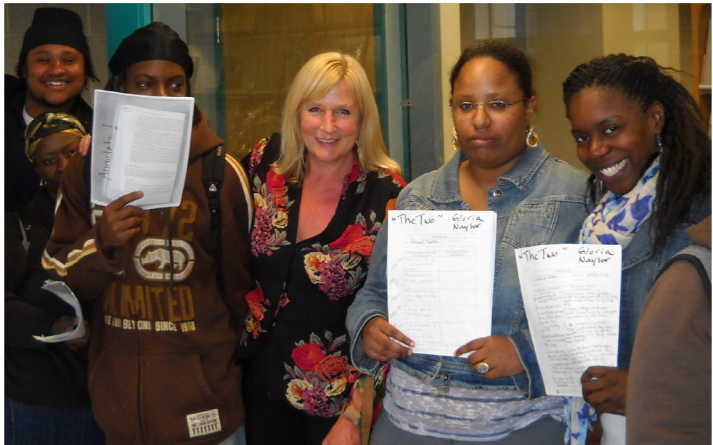


Staff and students are invited to send letters to the editor, news tips, ideas for articles and photos and other information for the Gazette to writingcenter@roxbury.edu. All submissions are subject to editing and run on a space available basis. The opinions expressed in these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

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The second largest Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation Limited also owns a staggering number of TV networks, newspapers, magazines, and Internet control. These organizations among others often display a very obvious social and political ideology that is anything but impartial. They are very selective on which candidates they report and often obviously support. These observations lead to the conclusion that media and business conglomerates are the most powerful organizations that need

to be monitored in America and the world. If it is the responsibility of journalists who work for these organizations to play that role then how can they Act Independently and be free of obligation to an interest other than the public's right to know? The first thing any tyrannical leader or organization must do to gain control of the population is to control the media, the information flow. We must ensure this remains free for us to remain such.



Prof. Julia Littlefield's Class
Photo by Dr. Eric Entemann



RCC student with Governor Patrick at "29 Who Shine"
Photo by Dr. Milton Samuels



Lady Tigers at the Sports Banquet 2012
Photo by Dr. Milton Samuels



RCC students at MCC Academic Team Recognition Ceremony
Photo by Nick Parkas



The Gateway Gazette is the official publication of the student body of Roxbury Community College. Submissions from the college community are welcome. All submissions are subject to editing. Opinions stated within the paper are not necessarily endorsed by the newspaper staff.

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Evening of Excellence - Photo by Dr. Milton Samuels